

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 03941 121109 Z

47

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EA-04 EB-05 IGA-02 INR-09 CIAE-00 IO-09

/089 W

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R 120916 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1347

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 3941

AIDAC

EO 11652: GDS

SUBJECT: SEATAC US BUSINESS TEAM VISIT TO PHNOM PENH

REF: PHNOM PENH 1483

FOR AMBASSADOR SWANK FROM LEE ST. LAWRENCE

1. RED DISCUSSED IMPLICATIONS REFTEL WITH SEATAC OFFICIALS AND WILLIAN BIRD, COORDINATOR US TEAM, DURING RECENT MANILA DISCUSSIONS. ALL VERY MUCH REGRETTED MISSION WAS UNABLE SEND REPRESENTATIVE TO DISCUSSIONS; IT WAS FELT THAT MISSION' S VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS WOULD HAVE BEEN MOST HELPFUL TO SEATAC AND BIRD FOR FULLER APPRECIATION OF MISSION' S CONCERNS AND ADJUSTING IN-COUNTRY PROGRAM TO MEET THESE CONCERNS.

2. SEATAC FEELS STRONGLY THAT SINCE KHMER REPUBLIC HAS SO RECENTLY JOINED ORGANIZATION IT MUST MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT KHMER REPUBLIC ENJOYS BENEFITS OF FULL PARTICIPATION IN THIS IMPORTANT SEA REGIONAL ORGANIZATION. SEATC IS ALSO UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM ITS EIGHT- COUNTRY COORDINATING BOARD TO GIVE KHMER REPUBLIC HIGHEST PRIORITY IN SEATAC ACTIVITIES. FOR THESE REASONS SEATAC DOES NOT FEEL THAT IT CAN CANCEL VISIT WITHOUT GRAVE EMBARRASSMENT TO SEATAC AND TO THE KHMERS.

3. PURPOSE OF THE TEAM VISIT, ( APP. 18 MEMBERS), IS NOT TO SEEK  
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OR ENCOURAGE PROJECTS WHICH CAN BE FINANCED FROM US FOREIGN ASSIST-  
ANCE OF OTHER GRANT OR CONCESSIONAL FUNDS NOR DRAW OFF KHMER'S  
"SCARCE RESOURCES". SOLE PURPOSE IS TO EXPLORE WITH KHMER  
PROJECTS  
WHICH, AFTER HOSTILITIES CEASE, ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO INNOVATIVE METHODS OF FINANCING FROM PRIVATE SOURCES AND WHICH COULD BE PROFITABLE TO BOTH PARTIES. (ONE SUCH PROJECT, FOR EXAMPLE, IS THE PHNOM PENH/SIEM REAP AIRPORT/ HOTEL COMPLEX ESTIMATED VARIOUSLY BETWEEN \$25 AND \$40 MILLION. MISSION IS PROBABLY AWARE THAT JAPAN AIRPORT CONSULTANTS  
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INC. ALREADY IN PROCESS READYING A PROPOSAL FOR THIS ACTIVITY).

4. US AMBASSADORS IN ALL SE ASIAN COUNTRIES PLANNING TO RECEIVE TEAM FOR A PRIVATE "US ONLY" SESSION TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES ASSOCIATED WITH US INVESTMENT (PRESENT AND POST-WAR) IN EACH COUNTRY. BIRD AND ROBLESS FULLY CONCUR THAT MISSION EVALUATION OF POST HOSTILITIES OPPORTUNITIES IN KHMER REPUBLIC WOULD BE EXTREMELY VALUABLE AND WELCOME AN EARLY MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR. HOWEVER, SEATAC/ BIRD FEEL MISSION SHOULD APPRECIATE THAT TEAM IS GUEST OF SEATAC AND KHMER REPUBLIC AND COURTESY REQUIRES THAT FIRST CALLS MUST BE PAID ON KHMER. SEATAC, (NOT RED), WITH KHMER COORDINATORS IS ARRANGING PHNOM PENH PROGRAM; IN THIS REGARD DR

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SIMATUPANG, FORMER INDONESIAN MIN. TRANSCOMM, WILL BE VISITING PHNOM PENH TO FINALIZE ARRANGEMENTS. RED WILL CABLE DR. SIMATUPANG'S SCHEDULE AND NAMES OF KHMER COORDINATING GROUP ORDER MISSION MAY ARRANGE MEETING WITH US AMBASSADOR.

5 RED/ BIRD/ SEATAC FULLY UNDERSTAND MISSION'S VIEWS REGARDING VISIT AND WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATIVE ANY ASSISTANCE MISSION MAY BE ABLE OFFER TO MAKE KHMER VISIT A SUCCESS.  
UNGER

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Reference:** 73 PHNOM PENH 1483  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 NOV 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19-Nov-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <13-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** BTRA, OTRA, n/a  
**To:** AID  
PHNOM PENH  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005